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## Jet displays tribute to surgeon's support

by 2nd Lt. Tracy Bunko, ASC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Flying in an Air National Guard F-16D is nothing new to active duty flight surgeon Dr. (Capt.) Christopher J. Borchardt, but having his name on one certainly is. "I've won awards in the past, said Borchardt, medical director for the sustained acceleration and biodynamics research program at the Air Force Research Laboratory. "I was flight surgeon of the year in 2000, but there is nothing cooler than this."

The aircraft, that has a back seat of which was recently painted to recognize "Doc B's" contribution to the unit, belongs to the 178th Fighter Wing of the Ohio Air National Guard in Springfield. Duetto an agreement reached between the Air Force and the Air National Guard, Borchardt has been the wing's flight surgeon for the for three years. This particular plane, a two-seat, trainer version of the Fighting Falcon, is one of the aircraft he uses to fly with his patients at the 178th and to support ongoing research at the lab. According to members of the Springfield unit, the time, much of it off duty, that Borchardt puts into the fighter wing has made him a valuable member of their team. Besides seeing the pilots at the wing, Borchardt helps with the students' in-processing and physicals. He also does physiological training for their new lieutenants and basic-course students — lectures that he says are more relevant because of his work at AFRL.

"He has done a lot for the students out here — giving classes that are required for their loss-of-consciousness training," said Lt. Col. Mike Roberts, 162nd Fighter Squadron commander.

The need for this type of support is new to the unit, according to Borchardt.

"About a year and a half ago, the Air National Guard unit at Springfield became a Reserve Training Unit under Air Education and Training Command," he said. "Many of the students are active duty and all of the students are on orders that allow them access to medical care."

But the relationship is not only beneficial to the Guard, said Borchardt, who said he moved to AFRL's centrifuge program in 1999 in large part because of his relationship with the F-16 squad-



DOC B — Dr. (Capt.) Christopher J. Borchardt was honored for his service to the 178th Fighter Wing of the Ohio Air National Guard by having his name inscribed on a two-seat, trainer version of the Fighting Falcon. (Air Force photo)

ron.

"My relationship with the guard unit was an opportunity for (AFRL) to have a liaison to the fighter squadron that they hadn't had in several years," he said. "Because I fly with them on a regular basis, I can validate research data and G-profiles. Recently, I've flown several sorties related to our spatial disorientation research here. Prior to me going out there and developing that rapport, that opportunity just didn't exist."

Borchardt said it was his love of flying that gave him the initiative to go out to the unit even when others told him he could never fly in a Guard aircraft.

"I've enjoyed being out there," he said. "It has added immensely to my understanding of G-forces and fighter tactics, and I have benefited the lab because of that. We matched AFRL's need to have a conduit to an operational fighter unit to the Guard's needs for flight surgeon coverage. "With this new AETC role, there are a considerable number of full-time people who need and are eligible for medical coverage, and I think supplying that type of coverage and meeting their needs is where I have earned my name on their jet." @